Import of Gold

6022. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of gold imported into the country each year since 1991;

(b) what is the quantity of gold seized and smuggled during the above period;

(c) what steps Government have taken to discourage smuggling of gold into the country during the past few years and whether it is a fact that in spite of these steps smuggling of gold continues; and

(d) what are the reasons for the continued smuggling of gold and in what manner the illegal trade in gold is affecting the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Quantity of gold imported into the country under the passengers baggage scheme, special imprest licence and quantity of smuggled gold seized since 1991 are as follows:

Year	Quantity of Gold Imported as passengers baggage	Quantity of Gold Imported under special imprest licences	Quantity of smuggled gold seized
		(In Tonnes)	
1991	..	..	5.0
1992 (March -December) .	92.3	..	2.9
1993	116.3	..	1.3
1994	159.7	18.7	1.1
*1995 (upto March) .	64.0	3.1	0.3

* Provisional.

(c) and (d) Govt. have liberalised import of gold including import under passenger baggage scheme to make a large quantity of legally imported gold available for consumption in the country. Anti-Smuggling agencies remains vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling including smuggling of gold. However, some smuggling of gold though on a reduced scale has been notice due to high demand for gold in the country. Illegal trade in gold leads to evasion of taxes generation of black-money, smuggling out of foreign exchange and investment of scarce economic resources in an unproductive asset. .

"सेवा क्षेत्र एप्रोच योजना" के अंतर्गत बैंकों को आबंटित गांव

6023. **श्री अजीत जोगी** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश में "सेवा क्षेत्र एप्रोच योजना" के अंतर्गत सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंकों की शाखाओं को कितने-कितने गांवों का आवंटन किया गया है ; और

(ख) उपर्युक्त बैंकों ने ग्रामीण विकास हेतु ऋण देने के संबंध में क्या मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए हैं ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम०वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों को आबंटित गांवों की कुल सं० 37107 है जो सेवा क्षेत्र दृष्टिकोण योजना के लागू करने के समय तक औसतन 21 गांव प्रति बैंक बैठता था ।

(ख) सेवा क्षेत्र दृष्टिकोण के तहत ग्रामीण विकास के लिए ऋण उपलब्ध कराने हेतु सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों ने स्वतंत्र रूप से कोई मानक निर्धारित नही किये है । ऋण के प्रवाह के संबंध में सामान्य अपेक्षा इस प्रकार है :—

प्राथमिकता क्षेत्र–निवल बैंक ऋण का 40 प्रतिशत

कृषि –निवल बैंक ऋण का 18 प्रतिशत

इसके अलावा ग्रामीण और अर्ध शहरी शाखाओं से कहा गया है कि वे 60% ऋण जमा अनुपात प्राप्त करें । सेवा क्षेत्र दृष्टिकोण के तहत देश में सभी गांवों को वाणिज्यिक बैंकों की शाखाओं को आबंटित किया गया है और उन्होंने यह सुनिश्चित करना है कि उनके सेवा क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत आने वाले उधारकर्ताओं को ऋण उपलब्ध कराया जाए ।

Impact of Deficit

6024. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while liberalisation of the Indian economy has achieved certain gains, the fiscal deficit continues to threaten those gains, as per the report of the World Bank, as stated in the news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 18th April, 1995 entitled; "Deficit threatens gains World Bank";

(b) if so, the fact thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (c) The World Bank in its Annual Report noted that India's stabilisation programme had reduced external deficits, built up foreign reserves and cut inflation but its durability depends on controlling the fiscal deficit.

The Government itself is seized of the necessity to reverse the fiscal slippage which occurred in 1993-94 and in 1994-95 the fiscal deficit is expected to be restricted to about 6.7 per cent of the GDP. Even this amount includes 0.5 per cent percentage points of unanticipated transfers to the States on account of small savings collections exceeding Budget Estimates. But for this development the fiscal deficit would have been 6.2 per cent. The Finance Minister reiterated in his speech to the Parliament on 15th March, 1995, while presenting the Union Budget for 1995-96, the Government's resolve for determined action to ensure that fiscal discipline is further improved in years ahead and announced a target of Central Government fiscal deficit at 5.5 per cent of GDP in 1995-96.

Officials working on deputation in IRS Customs Service

6025. DR. SANJAYA SINH:
SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 3350 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th April, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of officers who belong to IRS Customs Service and who are at present working in Delhi, had worked earlier also in Delhi either in Ministry of Finance or in some other Department of the Government of India for a period of three years or so;